

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul Preston Pickens of Bethel Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Preston Pickens; and

WHEREAS, Paul Pickens was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the youngest of six children, Paul Pickens was born October 12, 1949, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was raised by his mother and hero, Mary Sue Elkins Pickens; and

WHEREAS, a U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, Mr. Pickens worked for fifteen years as a forester for Tennessee River Pulp and Paper Company; he later was a forestry consultant and timber buyer for himself and Mark Roach Sawmill in Savannah; and

WHEREAS, serving on the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) Board at the time of his death, Paul Pickens was the 2016 honored recipient of the TFA Merit Award; he was a past president of the McNairy County Forest Land Owner's Association and the Selmer Lion's Club; and

WHEREAS, a lover of the outdoors, Mr. Pickens enjoyed hunting, canoeing, camping, hiking, and being in the woods; his immense expertise in forestry led to his being asked to teach forestry workshops and seminars at various universities; and

WHEREAS, Paul Pickens was an active and devout member of Bethel Springs First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and Sunday School teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pickens was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Paul Pickens enjoyed the loving companionship of his forever love, Brenda Case Pickens, whom he married on April 18, 1969, and was the proud father of Sarah (Clint) Pickens Ingersoll, Paul Andrew "Andy" Pickens, and Anna (Bryan) Pickens Patterson; he was a beloved grandfather to Claire Nichols, Rachel Pickens, Trey Nichols, Mason Pickens, Haylen Ingersoll, and Preston Patterson; and

WHEREAS, Paul Pickens is lovingly remembered by his sister, Sarah McClendon; his brother, Bill (Bonnie) Pickens; and a host of extended family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pickens was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Sue Elkins Pickens; his sister, Cynthia Pickens; his brothers, Earl Ray Pickens II and Ken Pickens; and his daughter-in-law, Ashley West Pickens; and

WHEREAS, Paul Pickens leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Paul Preston Pickens, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pickens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.